

## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**IN THE MATTER OF AN  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION  
CONCERNING  
JOE'S & CHO, INC. DBA  
JOE'S FUTURE FOOD MART;  
RN101432268**

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**BEFORE THE  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**AGREED ORDER****DOCKET NO. 2013-1777-PST-E****I. JURISDICTION AND STIPULATIONS**

On AUG 06 2014, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties (the "Agreed Order"), resolving an enforcement action regarding Joe's & Cho, Inc. d/b/a Joe's Future Food Mart ("Respondent") under the authority of TEX. WATER CODE chs. 7 and 26. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, represented by the Litigation Division, and Respondent together stipulate that:

1. Respondent owns and operates, as defined in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.2(73) and (70), an underground storage tank ("UST") system and a convenience store with retail sales of gasoline located at 4225 Miller Avenue in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas (Facility ID No. 66381) (the "Facility"). The USTs at the Facility are not exempt or excluded from regulation under the Texas Water Code or the rules of the TCEQ, and contain a regulated petroleum substance as defined in the rules of the TCEQ.
2. This Agreed Order is entered into pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE §§ 7.051 and 7.070. The TCEQ has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to TEX. WATER CODE § 5.013 because it alleges violations of TEX. WATER CODE ch. 26 and TCEQ rules.
3. The Executive Director and Respondent agree that TCEQ has jurisdiction to enter this Agreed Order, and that Respondent is subject to TCEQ's jurisdiction.
4. The occurrence of any violation is in dispute and the entry of this Agreed Order shall not constitute an admission by Respondent of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.
5. An administrative penalty in the amount of nine thousand five hundred sixty-three dollars (\$9,563.00) is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II. Respondent paid two hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$288.00) of the administrative penalty. The remaining amount of nine thousand two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$9,275.00) of the administrative penalty shall be payable in thirty-five (35) monthly payments of two hundred sixty-five dollars (\$265.00) each. The first monthly payment shall be paid within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order. The subsequent payments shall be paid not later than 30 days following the due date of the previous payment. If Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with the payment requirements of this Agreed Order, including the payment schedule, the Executive Director may, at his option, accelerate the maturity of the remaining installments, in which event the unpaid balance shall become immediately due and payable without demand or notice. In addition,

Respondent's failure to meet the payment schedule of this Agreed Order constitutes the failure by Respondent to timely and satisfactorily comply with all of the terms of this Agreed Order.

6. Any notice and procedures which might otherwise be authorized or required in this action are waived in the interest of a more timely resolution of the matter.
7. The Executive Director and Respondent agree on a settlement of the matters addressed in this Agreed Order, subject to final approval in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(a).
8. The Executive Director may, without further notice or hearing, refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") for further enforcement proceedings if the Executive Director determines that Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions contained in this Agreed Order.
9. This Agreed Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order, whichever is later.
10. The provisions of this Agreed Order are deemed severable, and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Agreed Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable.
11. The Executive Director recognizes that Respondent began providing corrosion protection for the UST system at the Facility as of August 16, 2013.

## **II. ALLEGATIONS**

1. During an investigation conducted on July 15, 2013, and a record review conducted on August 27, 2013, a UT-Arlington PST Program investigator (TCEQ contractor) documented that Respondent:
  - a. Failed to provide corrosion protection for the UST system, in violation of TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(d) and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.49(a)(1);
  - b. Failed to monitor the USTs for releases at a frequency of at least once every month (not to exceed 35 days between each monitoring), in violation of TEX. WATER CODE § 26.3475(c)(1) and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50(b)(1)(A); and
  - c. Failed to maintain UST records and make them immediately available for inspection upon request by agency personnel, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.10(b).
2. Respondent received notice of the violations on or about September 1, 2013.

## **III. DENIALS**

Respondent generally denies each Allegation in Section II.

## **IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS**

1. It is, therefore, ordered by the TCEQ that Respondent pay an administrative penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 5, above. The payment of this administrative penalty and Respondent's compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order resolve only the Allegations in Section II. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from considering or requiring corrective actions or penalties for violations which are not raised here. Administrative penalty payments shall be

made payable to "Texas Commission on Environmental Quality" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: Joe's & Cho, Inc. d/b/a Joe's Future Food Mart, Docket No. 2013-1777-PST-E" to:

Financial Administration Division, Revenues Section  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Attention: Cashier's Office, MC 214  
P.O. Box 13088  
Austin, Texas 78711-3088

2. Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:

- a. Immediately upon the effective date of this Agreed Order, Respondent shall begin maintaining all UST records and make them immediately available for inspection upon request by agency personnel, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.10.
- b. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, Respondent shall implement a release detection method for all USTs at the Facility, in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 334.50.
- c. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, Respondent shall submit written certification to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provisions Nos. 2.a. and 2.b. The certification shall be accompanied by detailed supporting documentation, including photographs, receipts, and/or other records, shall be notarized by a State of Texas Notary Public, and shall include the following certification language:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted and all attached documents, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Respondent shall submit the written certification and supporting documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with these Ordering Provisions to:

Order Compliance Team  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Enforcement Division, MC 149A  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

and:

Sam Barrett, Waste Section Manager  
Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Office  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
2309 Gravel Drive  
Fort Worth, Texas 76118-6951

3. All relief not expressly granted in this Agreed Order is denied.
4. The duties and provisions imposed by this Agreed Order shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent. Respondent is ordered to give notice of this Agreed Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Facility operations referenced in


this Agreed Order.


5. If Respondent fails to comply with any of the Ordering Provisions in this Agreed Order within the prescribed schedules, and that failure is caused solely by an act of God, war, strike, riot, or other catastrophe, Respondent's failure to comply is not a violation of this Agreed Order. Respondent shall have the burden of establishing to the Executive Director's satisfaction that such an event has occurred. Respondent shall notify the Executive Director within seven days after Respondent becomes aware of a delaying event and shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate and minimize any delay.
6. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Agreed Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this Agreed Order, upon a written and substantiated showing of good cause. All requests for extensions by Respondent shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. Extensions are not effective until Respondent receives written approval from the Executive Director. The determination of what constitutes good cause rests solely with the Executive Director.
7. This Agreed Order, issued by the Commission, shall not be admissible against Respondent in a civil proceeding, unless the proceeding is brought by the OAG to: (1) enforce the terms of this Agreed Order; or (2) pursue violations of a statute within TCEQ's jurisdiction, or of a rule adopted or an order or permit issued by the TCEQ under such a statute.
8. This Agreed Order may be executed in separate and multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single instrument. Any page of this Agreed Order may be copied, scanned, digitized, converted to electronic portable document format ("pdf"), or otherwise reproduced and may be transmitted by digital or electronic transmission, including but not limited to facsimile transmission and electronic mail. Any signature affixed to this Agreed Order shall constitute an original signature for all purposes and may be used, filed, substituted, or issued for any purpose for which an original signature could be used. The term "signature" shall include manual signatures and true and accurate reproductions of manual signatures created, executed, endorsed, adopted, or authorized by the person or persons to whom the signatures are attributable. Signatures may be copied or reproduced digitally, electronically, by photocopying, engraving, imprinting, lithographing, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, stamping, or any other means or process which the Executive Director deems acceptable. In this paragraph exclusively, the terms "electronic transmission" "owner" "person" "writing" and "written" shall have the meanings assigned to them under TEX. BUS. ORG. CODE § 1.002.
9. Pursuant to 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(b) and TEX. GOV'T CODE § 2001.142, the effective date of this Agreed Order is the date of hand delivery of this Agreed Order to Respondent, or three days after the date on which the Commission mails a copy of the fully executed Agreed Order to Respondent, whichever is earlier.

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

  
For the Commission

  
For the Executive Director

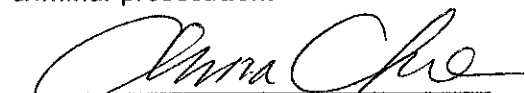
  
Date

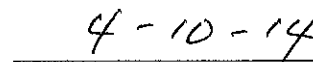
I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Agreed Order. I represent that I am authorized to agree to the attached Agreed Order on behalf of Joe's & Cho, Inc. d/b/a Joe's Future Food Mart, and I do agree to the terms and conditions specified therein. I further acknowledge that the TCEQ, in accepting payment for the penalty amount, is materially relying on such representation.

I also understand that failure to comply with the Ordering Provisions in this order and/or failure to timely pay the penalty amount may result in:

- A negative impact on compliance history;
- Greater scrutiny of any permit applications;
- Referral of this case to the Attorney General's office for contempt, injunctive relief, additional penalties, and/or attorney fees, or to a collection agency;
- Increased penalties in any future enforcement actions;
- Automatic referral to the Attorney General's Office of any future enforcement actions; and
- TCEQ seeking other relief as authorized by law.

In addition, I understand that any falsification of any compliance documents may result in criminal prosecution.

  
Signature - Ae Ok Park, Director  
Joe's & Cho, Inc.

  
Date

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*  
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*  
Zak Covar, *Commissioner*  
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

August 12, 2014

### CERTIFIED MAIL

Ae Ok Park, Director  
Joe's & Cho, Inc.  
4225 Miller Avenue  
Fort Worth, Texas 76119-3646

RE: Joe's & Cho, Inc. dba Joe's Future Food Mart  
TCEQ Docket No. 2013-1777-PST-E; Registration No. 66381  
Agreed Order Assessing Administrative Penalties and Requiring Certain Action

Enclosed is a copy of an order issued by the Commission.

Questions regarding the order should be directed to the Enforcement Coordinator or the Staff Attorney. If there are questions pertaining to the mailing of the order, then please contact Leslie Gann of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Office of the Chief Clerk (MC 105) at (512) 239-3319.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bridget C. Bohac".

Bridget C. Bohac  
Chief Clerk

BCB/lg

Enclosure

cc: Steven M. Fishburn, Staff Attorney, TCEQ Litigation Division  
Sam Barrett, Regional Contact, TCEQ Regional Office  
Thomas Greimel, Enforcement Coordinator, TCEQ Enforcement Division

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PS Form 3800, June 2002

See Reverse for Instructions